

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

July 27, 2007

Message from County Executive Walker

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel hosted a discussion on regional cooperation in their offices the other day. The gathering was video taped and will be on their website www.jsonline.com this weekend. As they have done in the past on other topics, they will print portions of the discussion on the pages of the Crossroads section this Sunday. Kudos to the editorial board for hosting such an interesting and lively discussion.

Panelists included me, Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, former Lt. Gov. Margaret Farrow, Sen. Alberta Darling, Rep. Jason Fields, local businessman Sheldon Lubar, attorney and former Commerce Secretary Corey Nettles, and Transit NOW director Rosemary Potter. The discussion was wide open, with most of us identifying the economy as the most important issue on a regional basis.

I elaborated that I thought that jobs were the big issue with the subplot being access to jobs via quality education, affordable housing, decent transportation and safe neighborhoods. The panel spent a great deal of time on education.

Later, we talked about water, quality of life, transportation and governance as issues to discuss on a regional basis. On August 7, I am looking to present a long-term vision for transit options in Milwaukee County and the Region at the meeting of the Downtown Rotary.

Scott



Senior Statesmen Program



County Executive Walker welcomed the members of this year's three-day Senior Statesmen program this week at the Courthouse. Participants learn about the workings of county government by meeting with the County Executive and Supervisors, attending a County Board meeting, along with briefings by department heads in Public Works, Administrative Services, Health and Human Services, Aging, Parks, Transit and the Office for Persons with Disabilities.

The program is a collaborative effort of the County Executive's Office, County Board, Marquette University's Geriatric Education Program, the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, and the Milwaukee County Department on Aging. Graduates act as liaisons for the county on various special projects and assist in directing other seniors to appropriate sources for information.

Senior citizens interested in the program can contact Annie Wiesen of the Department on Aging for information at 414-289-6010.

VISIT Milwaukee promo



Milwaukee native (Greendale, actually) Jane Kaczmarek, star of the television show "Malcolm in the Middle," returned home to visit family and friends, but also took some time to help her hometown. County Executive Walker was on hand to thank her for generously donating her time to help promote the Milwaukee area. Jane came to the Milwaukee Art Museum where she filmed video spots and posed for still photographs to promote Milwaukee-area tourism and the State's upcoming film incentives, which take effect in January. Despite her success in Hollywood, Jane stays true to Milwaukee roots by remaining firmly grounded and couldn't have been more gracious by donating her time. RD Images and Plum Moving Video also donated their services for the shoot that was arranged through VISIT Milwaukee.

Support the Parks



Find out how you can buy a ticket for the raffle of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle to benefit the parks. Ticket locations are noted on the parks website at www.countyparks.com.

Airport Opens 8 New Gates on Concourse C



County Executive Walker was joined by airport officials to celebrate the addition of eight new gates on Concourse C at Milwaukee County's General Mitchell International Airport. Acclaimed artist Carlos Alves showed visitors his work at the event (above) where his public art permanent installation of terrazzo floor designs and mosaic medallions are a focal point of the concourse corridor. The floor design celebrates the people, places and things unique to southeastern Wisconsin.

Bradford Beach Jam



County Executive Walker, Gus Gnorski of Fox6 TV and Glenda Stacker of The Jet Ski Zone promote this weekend's competitive events in volleyball, rugby, Frisbee, BMX/Skate and more. Visit www.bradfordbeachjam.com for a schedule of events.